

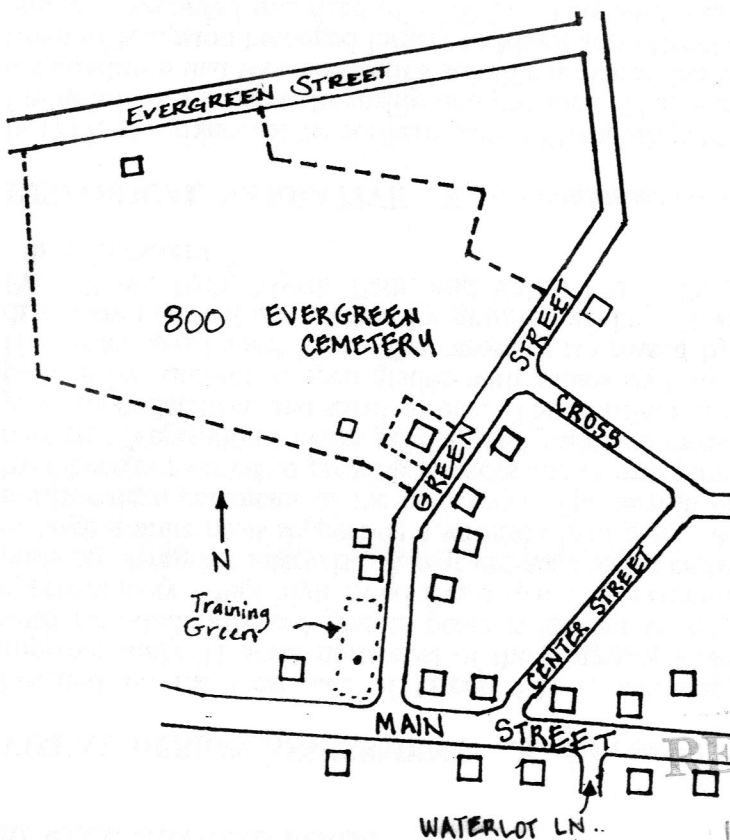
NR06 10/4/02



roll:negative(s)

Town KingstonPlace (neighborhood or village) Jones River VillageAddress or Location Green StreetName Evergreen CemeteryOwnership Public ☒ PrivateApproximate Number of Stones over 1000Earliest Death Date 1854Latest Death Date present day (active)Landscape Architect Horace Holmes & Caleb BatesCondition excellent; well-maintained and landscapedAcreage approx. 18Setting located on the west side of Green Street; TownHouse to the southeast; Old Burial Ground to the south;grass, trees, shrubsRecorded by V.H.Adams, N.C.Avery, M.K.HarringtonOrganization The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc.Date (month/day/year) May 1997

Sketch Map



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MASS. HIST. COMM.

BURIAL GROUND FORM

VISUAL/DESIGN ASSESSMENT ☒ *see continuation sheet*

Located on the west side of Green Street, extending to Evergreen Street, Evergreen Cemetery covers approximately 31 acres northwest of the Kingston Town House (MHC 3, 1841). A cast iron fence and gate with rounded rails and granite posts is located at the main entrance on the east side of the cemetery. An approximately 4-foot high wood fence spans the cemetery's perimeter which is also outlined with low granite posts set at regular intervals. A rear entrance to the cemetery is located at the north western end. This consists of large granite posts supporting a wrought iron gate. A wrought iron fence with granite posts runs along the northwestern perimeter of the cemetery. The terrain of the cemetery is rolling with deep swales, and slopes have been contoured to provide terraces for family plots. Many family plots have been outlined with granite curbing. Vegetation consists generally of grass and moss ground cover, thick stands of hemlocks, spruce, oak, pine, rhododendron, and small shrubs. The cemetery is heavily wooded, giving it a cool and dark atmosphere, pierced by sunlight in open glades with names such as Moss Dell, Oak Vale, Leaf Valley, Rose Valley, The Hemlocks, and Laurel Vale. The cemetery is crossed by numerous curvilinear drives. Footpaths between the drives are unpaved and marked by granite curbing. These paths, too, have picturesque names, such as Cedar Path, Pansy Path, Myrtle Path, and Valley Path. Evergreen Cemetery is a good example of a 19th-century "rural cemetery."

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE ☒ *see continuation sheet*

In 1717, 41 residents of the northern part of Plymouth petitioned the General Court to allow them to be set off from Plymouth as a separate township or a precinct. They were allowed to become the north precinct of Plymouth on the condition that they maintain a suitable minister (Bailey 1920:33). At that time, the central part of the present town of Kingston belonged largely to Major John Bradford who gave the precinct fourteen acres of land in 1717 which is recorded in a deed of 1720/21. This land was to be used for the town woodlot, the Training Green, a burying ground, and a meetinghouse (Bailey 1920:36). In 1726, the north precinct, after having been a part of the town of Plymouth for 106 years, acquired its independence and became the town of Kingston (Bailey 1920:41).

Bradford set aside two acres of land to be used for the town Training Green, the Old Burying Ground, and a meetinghouse (Drew 1944:65) which was erected on the corner of Main and Green streets ca. 1720 (MHC 1980:3). The Old Burying Ground, to the south of Evergreen Cemetery, was used for burials as early as 1717 when Charles, the infant son of Charles and Sarah Little was buried there. Other early burials include Major John Bradford and his wife who are buried to the north of the Little lot (Bailey 1920:48). Land for the Old Burying Ground is now the oldest part of the Evergreen Cemetery. (MHC form)

In 1759, today's Green Street was laid out as a shortcut from the Boston Road (Summer Street) to the Bridgewater Road (Main Street) and named Meeting House Lane. On April 2, 1787 the Old Burying Ground was enclosed with a wall (Hurd 1884:264). In 1839 an extension to the Bradford parcel was added by a lot purchased from Captain Daniel Adams for \$600 (Hurd 1884:268). This additional land was most likely the lot on which the

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☒ *see continuation sheet*

Bailey, Sarah Y. *The Story of Jones River in Pilgrim Plymouth, 1620-1726*. Kingston, MA, 1920.

Bailey, Sarah Y., and Emily F. Drew. *The Civic Progress of Kingston [and] A History of Her Industries, Two Hundred Years, 1726-1926*. Kingston, 1926.

Drew, Emily. *Kingston: the Jones River Village*. 1944 (Edited and annotated by Doris M. Johnson, 1995).

Drew, Thomas Bradford. "History of Kingston," in D.H. Hurd, *History of Plymouth County, Massachusetts*. Philadelphia, 1884.

Freeman, Isabelle. "Evergreen in Kingston: Where the Descendants of Mayflower Pilgrims Rest Beside Their Honored Ancestors," no date, (located in vertical files in Local History Room at Kingston Public Library).

Massachusetts Historical Commission. *Reconnaissance Survey Report: Kingston*. Boston, 1981.

Melville, Doris Johnson. *Major Bradford's Town: A History of the Town of Kingston, 1726-1976*. Kingston, 1976.

Tishler, William H. *American Landscape Architecture: Designers and Places*. The Preservation Press, 1989.

Vertical Files located at the Local History Room of the Kingston Public Library.

— Recommended as a National Register District. If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEETCommunity:
KingstonProperty Address:
Green StreetMassachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Facility
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Area(s)

Form No.
800

KIN.800

VISUAL/DESIGN ASSESSMENT (continued)

The cemetery's mostly upright monuments include obelisk, urn and pedestal, cruciform, and Celtic cross forms. Some markers are flat and flush with the ground. Many of the grave markers are ornamented with carved funerary symbolic details, including roses, weeping willows, lilies, and draped urns. Four vaulted, granite tombs with metal doors set into the hillside are located just inside the main entrance, abutting the Old Burying Ground (MHC 801,1717) at the First Parish Church to the south. One of the most impressive family plots is that of the Washburn family. Located on an open, terraced lot, the plot has raised walls of large cobblestones with a string course and capstones of dressed granite blocks. The inscribed family monument is surmounted by a draped urn. Other notable landscape features include a water fountain, flanked by granite benches, located at the east side of the cemetery. A small, heart-shaped reflective pond (Mirror Pond on historic plans) with a large granite bench and pedestal monument is located in the northern end of the cemetery.

Two buildings are maintained within the cemetery's land. A 1-story, 4-bay, side-gable building sheathed in brick stands approximately 200 feet west of the main entrance, across from the previously mentioned tombs. Built in 1956 from endowment funds, this building serves at the Prince Memorial Chapel, with office space, sanitary facilities, and vault storage facilities in the basement. The building's basement is exposed to the rear (N), with an attached 1-by-2 bay garage. The main entrance is located in the east bay of the facade (S), beneath a pedimented entrance porch with square columns. A small, 1-story, hipped-roof building is located northwest of Mirror Pond. It rests upon concrete piers and is clad in clapboard with two boarded-up windows. This structure purportedly served as the town powder house (Freeman, no date p.28), and now serves as a tool shed for cemetery maintenance crews.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE (continued)

Town House (MHC 3, 1841) was built, as records seem to indicate that the First Parish did not give consent to having the Town House erected on Parish land, as the Green was considered by some (Drew 1944:66). The additional land also made further room for burials and served until the Evergreen Cemetery was opened in 1853. It also provided a second means of egress for the Old Burying Ground, other than through church grounds (Drew 1944:65).

During the early part of the 19th century landscape designers began to design cemeteries following a picturesque aesthetic established in 1831 at Boston's Mount Auburn Cemetery. Mount Auburn served as a prototype for many others, designed with the same rolling hills, dales, woods, and ponds laid out to create vistas. These picturesque "rural" cemeteries served not only burial purposes, but were in many instances popular tourist attractions and pleasure grounds (Tishler 1989:121).

Evergreen Cemetery in Kingston was laid out within this design mode in 1853 by Horace Holmes and Caleb Bates, adjoining the Old Burying Ground. The first interment at the Evergreen Cemetery was on June 19, 1854 for Mrs Julia Parris, the widow of Rev. Martin Parris. Consecration ceremonies took place in Evergreen Cemetery on August 2, 1854 with the address delivered by Rev. Frederick D. Huntington (Hurd 1884:269). In 1887 the cemetery was extended by Laurence Bradford, and extended yet again in 1895 (Freeman no date, p. 29). Many prominent members of the Kingston community have been buried in Evergreen Cemetery over the years, including Dr. Henry Jones, Thomas Drew, Thomas Beal, Cornelius Bartlett, Sampsons, Faunces, and members of the Stetson family. The cemetery continues interments today in the eastern side of the cemetery.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community:
Kingston

Property Address:
Green Street

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Massachusetts Archives Facility
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125**

Area(s)

Form No.
800

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES (*continued*)

Maps

- 1831 *Map of Kingston.* John Gray.
- 1876 *Map of the Town of Kingston, Plymouth County, Mass.* E.N. Boyden.
- 1887 *Map of Evergreen Cemetery, Kingston Mass. 1887.* Laurence Bradford
- 1903 *Atlas of Plymouth County.* George E. Walker.
- 1928 *Map of Kingston with Key.*



INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

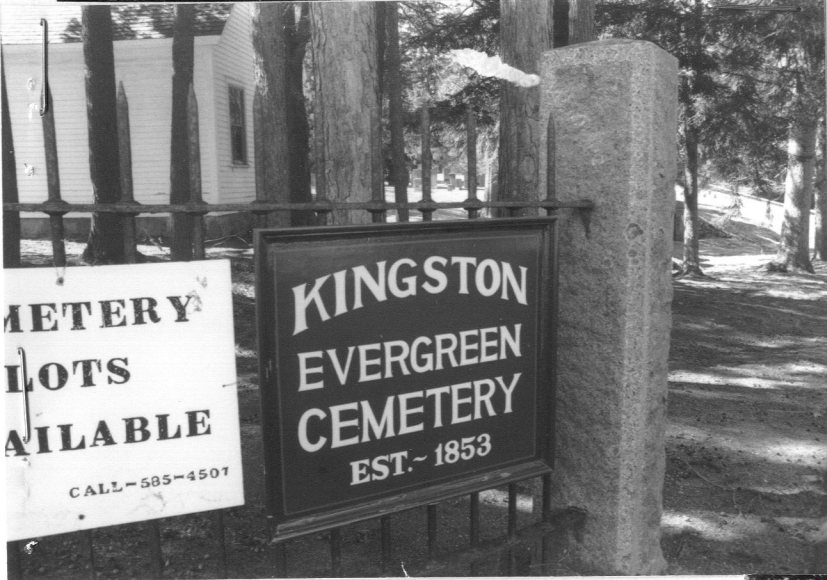
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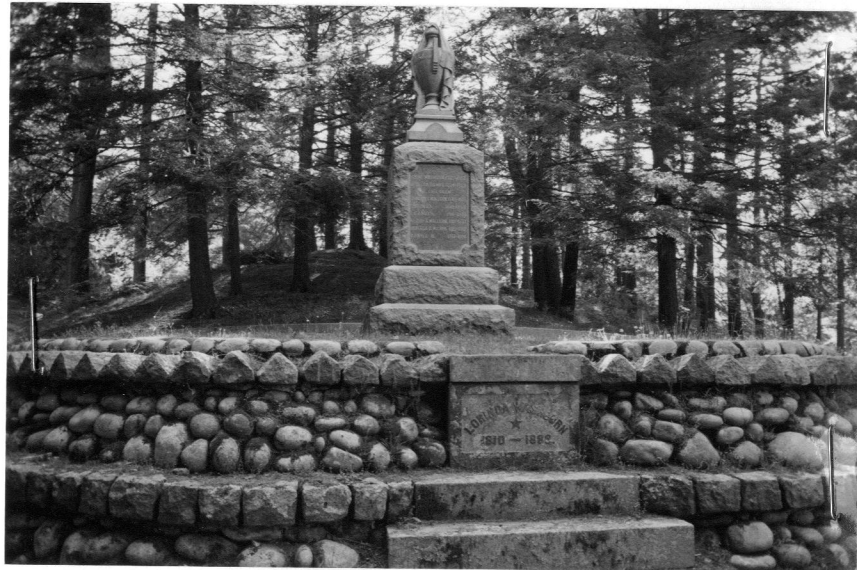
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PHOTOGRAPHS



FORM E - BURIAL GROUNDS

PICKING
USGS PLYMOUTH
ALTA

Area

Form No.

800

KIN.800



SKETCH MAP

Draw map showing property's location in relationship to nearest cross streets and other buildings or geographical features. Indicate north.

Town

Kingston

Address

Evergreen St.

Name

Evergreen Cemetery

Ownership:

☒ Public

☐ Private

DESCRIPTION:

Approximate number stones 1000 +

Earliest death date 1677

Latest death date 1983

Condition The oldest stones

are being worn away

by time and the

elements. Some of the

stones have been

preserved beyond

imagination.

Recorded by

Edward J. Vella

Organization

Kingston Historical Comm

Date

11/1/83

(Staple additional sheets here)

ASSESSMENT OF ART WORK (describe materials used, designs, motifs, symbols that are either common or unusual, known carvers).

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (discuss religious affiliations, major period of use, importance within town).

Lands for the "old burying ground," which is now the oldest part of the cemetery were given to the town as gifts by Major John Bradford, who was the grandson of the governor. The burying ground has been in use ever since. ~~The~~

